

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 095761
ORIGIN SS-25

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NEA:ALATHERTONJR.
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 095761

EXDIS - FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, EG

SUBJECT: FAHMY'S QUERY RE SOVIETS

REF: CAIRO 6862

1. REGARDING PARA 2 OF YOUR REFTL (PARA 1 BEING TAKEN
CARE OF IN SEPARATE MESSAGE) YOU SHOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING
POINTS TO FAHMY:

-- THE SOVIETS HAVE ASKED FOR THIS DISCUSSION ON THE MIDDLE
EAST AND SEEM TO WANT TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF THE
ISSUES INVOLVED. WE DO NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHAT THEY HAVE
IN MIND AND ARE SOMEWHAT SKEPTICAL THAT THERE IS A GREAT
DEAL WE CAN SAY TO EACH OTHER AT THIS PARTICULAR STAGE
ABOUT THE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES BEYOND WHAT IS ALREADY WELL
KNOWN IN OUR RESPECTIVE POINTS OF VIEW. WE DO NOT INTEND
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TO EMBARK ON ANY KIND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIETS AND
APPROACH A GENEVA MEETING AS SIMPLY A FURTHER EXCHANGE OF
VIEWS. WE EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE SOME DISCUSSION
ABOUT THE TIMING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE, WHICH THE SOVIETS
HAVE ALREADY RAISED WITH US. WE WILL OF COURSE MAKE NO
COMMITMENTS ON THIS OR ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO
MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING EGYPT AND

OTHER PARTIES, AND DO NOT IN ANY CASE BELIEVE IT REALISTIC TO REACH DECISIONS AT THIS STAGE ABOUT THE PRECISE TIMING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

-- FOR OUR PART, WE INTEND TO USE THE MEETING TO URGE THE SOVIETS ALONG CONSTRUCTIVE LINES THAT WOULD FACILITATE THE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE WILL IN PARTICULAR WANT TO SUGGEST THAT THEY IMPRESS ON THE PLO THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY IN APPROACHING THE PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION QUESTION SO AS TO AVOID BLOCKING THE HOLDING OF A CONFERENCE. WE ARE ALSO CONSIDERING SUGGESTING THAT THEY URGE IRAQ AND LIBYA, WITH WHICH THEY HAVE SUCH CLOSE RELATIONS, TO STOP OR AT LEAST TONE DOWN THEIR REJECTIONIST ATTITUDE TO RD NEGOTIATIONS.

-- WE WOULD OF COURSE BE INTERESTED IN ANY SUGGESTIONS FAHMY MIGHT WANT TO MAKE TO US ABOUT OUR DISCUSSION WITH SOVIETS IN GENEVA. WE AGREE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO KEEP IN TO H ON THIS SUBJECT.

-- ON SALT, WE ANTICIPATE CONTINUING THE DIALOGUE UNDERTAKEN IN THE WAKE OF THE SECRETARY'S MOSCOW TRIP. THE PROPOSALS MADE BY BOTH SIDES REMAIN ON THE TABLE. WE HOPE TO ELICIT SOVIET VIEWS ON THE BASIC CONCEPTS EMBODIED IN OUR PROPOSALS. OUR GOAL IS TO ESTABLISH A NEW FRAMEWORK FOR STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATIONS OF THE SALT I INTERIM AGREEMENT. IT IS STILL PREMATURE TO EVALUATE
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THE CHANCES FOR ARRIVING AT SUCH A FRAMEWORK AT GENEVA.

-- WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE SOVIETS REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EIGHT WORKING GROUPS AGREED DURING THE MOSCOW VISIT.
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